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USIB-D-41.14/166
(COMOR-D-56/45)
11 August 1964
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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Use of Monoscopic KH-4 Photography for Coverage
of "Holiday" Areas

REFERENCE : USIB-D-41.14/163 (COMOR-D-56/44)
7 August 1964, Limited Distribution

1. The attached memorandum on the subject from the Chairman, Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR), in response to United States Intelligence Board (USIB) direction in paragraph 6 of the reference, is transmitted herewith for consideration by USIB of the COMOR recommendations in paragraph 3 as guidance to NRO.

2. COMOR expects to review this problem again as soon as experience has been gained on the dual use of stereo and mono in one mission. Mission 1012 is scheduled to be the first with this dual capability.

3. The attached COMOR report is scheduled on the agenda of the USIB meeting on 13 August 1964.

Executive Secretary

Attachment

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Use of Monoscopic KH-4 Photography for
Coverage of "Holiday" Areas

REFERENCE: USIB-D-41.14/163 (COMOR-D-56/44), 7 August 64

1. As directed by the Board on 5 August (see reference) the COMOR examined the question of whether "holiday" areas should be covered by monoscopic (mono) instead of stereoscopic (stereo) KH-4 photography so as to conserve film for use against lower priority areas. In undertaking the study, COMOR considered seven specific questions and comments as follows:

a. Is stereo coverage required to search for single silos in areas of the USSR considered most likely for such deployment?

b. Is stereo coverage required to search for single silos in areas of the USSR and European satellites considered to be less likely for such deployment?

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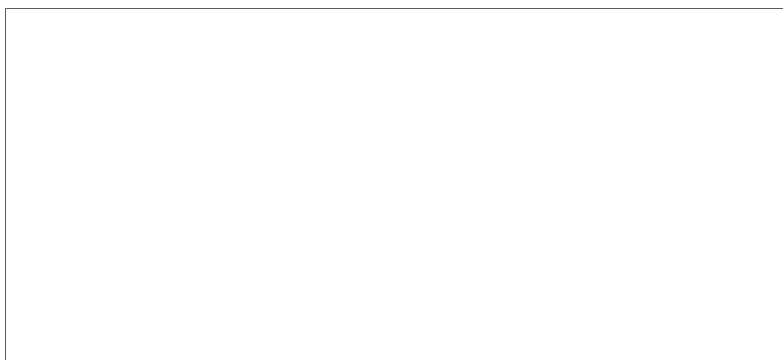
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The major trans-

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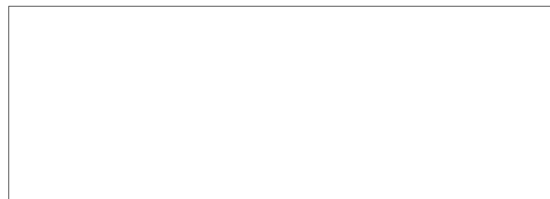
portation routes are the most likely locations for single silo search and, therefore, should be covered in stereo (see map). Because of keen interest in other types of activity in the European satellites, this area also warrants stereo coverage. The remainder of the USSR is considered less likely to contain single silos and, therefore, "holiday" coverage may be conducted by mono photography.

c. Is stereo required for search of China (including

Tibet):

- (1) South of 30° N?
- (2) North of 30° N?

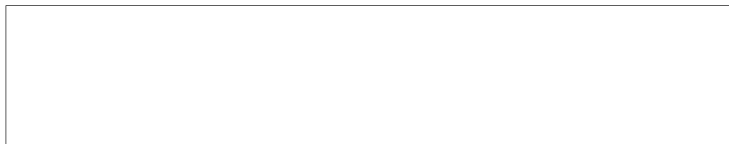
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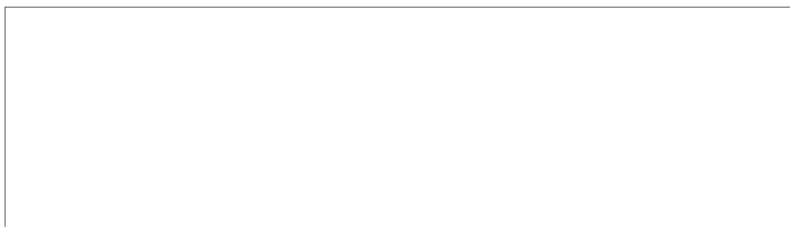
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Comment: The "holiday" problem in China

stems from two concerns:

(1) Locating new military activity

South of 30° N and



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Both require search in the stereo mode. Mono coverage is acceptable in all other "holiday" areas in China.

d. Is stereo required when obtaining coverage of lower priority areas



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Comment: Coverage of non-Sino-Soviet Bloc

areas is desired to monitor the construction

progress of certain known installations on the

one hand, and to obtain initial coverage of large

areas



on the other. In order

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to satisfy these requirements, stereo coverage is needed on point targets whereas mono coverage of the large areas is acceptable.

e. Is there advantage to be gained in obtaining stereo coverage of Far Northern areas of the USSR during periods of good target illumination and foregoing coverage of lower priority areas until light conditions prevent Northern USSR coverage?

Comment: It is recognized that there are areas in the northern latitudes which cannot be photographed successfully during the months November through March due to insufficient illumination. It is also recognized that when these areas cannot be covered to advantage by either mode of photography, the film saved, though in limited amounts, can then be expended elsewhere including non-Sino-Soviet Bloc areas. The northern areas, therefore, should be photographed with stereo during the "good light" period.



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f. If an area is initially covered in mono and suspicious activity is suspected, what is the probability for recoverage in stereo?

Comment: The record of the past is not definitive on the question of desirability of obtaining search coverage in mono and then retargeting for coverage in stereo. There are occasions when significant installations when once located have been retargeted and successfully covered on the next mission.

On the other hand, the opposite has occurred. Due to the many invariables involved such as weather and launch schedules, it is impossible to estimate the probability of recoverage of any given target.

g. If mono coverage is obtained of certain "holiday" areas, what saving of film will be effected for coverage of lower priority areas?

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Comment: It is not possible to estimate what saving of film could be effected which could then be used on lower priority areas. However, there would probably be more available than is currently the case where stereo is being used throughout. In any event, it is almost certain that more extensive and rapid coverage of the "holidays" in the Sino-Soviet Bloc could be achieved by mono. Furthermore, the sooner all "holidays" are covered the sooner film will become available for lower priority target areas.

2. Conclusions:

a. Initial coverage by mono photography is acceptable on certain "holiday" areas in the USSR and China.

b. Initial mono coverage is acceptable on large areas outside the Sino-Soviet Bloc

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3. Recommendations:

a. That for Missions 1012 and 1013 "holidays" within the Sino-Soviet Bloc as designated (see map) be covered initially by stereo photography and that "holidays" within the remaining areas of the Sino-Soviet Bloc be covered initially by mono photography.

b. That for Missions 1012 and 1013, coverage of point targets in non-Sino-Soviet Bloc areas be obtained in stereo and non-Sino-Soviet Bloc searches be conducted in mono.

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c. That special attention be given in the instances
of Missions 1010, 1011, and 1012 to acquire stereoscopic
photography during the period of good light in the far northern
latitudes.

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James Q. Reber
Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:
Map

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